operate international services, are considered essential for safe and reliable operations on international routes. Further, Gulf routes are presently reserved only for Air India and Indian Airlines.

Financial assistance for development of museums

*212.SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide financial assistance for the development of museums under the scheme for promotion of museums:

(b) if so, the criteria prescribed in this regard;

(c) the number of applications received in this regard during each of the last two years and the current year so far;

(d) the details of financial assistance sanctioned and released during the above period; and

(e) by when the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. Financial Assistance is provided under the scheme "Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums".

(b) While considering the proposal under this scheme *inter alia the* nature of the organisation, characteristics of the Museum including the period of its existence and the purpose for which assistance is sought are taken into consideration.

(c) The number of applications received during the last two years and the current year, so far, are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Applications Received
1.	2004-2005	259
2.	2005-2006	92
3.	2006-2007	91

(d) Details of financial assistance sanctioned and released during the above period are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Year	No. of cases	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	2004-2005	36	421.01	315.76
2.	2005-2006	30	586.52	379.91
3.	2006-2007	38	1407.06	1055.29

(e) The Expert Committee constituted for the scheme has considered and taken a decision on all the eligible applications received till the date of its last meeting held on 24.11.2006.

Enactment of ground water regulation legislations by States

*213. SHRI K.P.K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of States which have enacted ground water regulation legislations on the Model Bill drafted by the Ministry and forwarded to all the States; and

(b) whether his Ministry propose to come forward with a white paper on the Ground Water Central Industrial Entrepreneurship with special reference to Multinational Corporations spreading their bottling plants across the length and breadth of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) To facilitate enactment of suitable ground water legislation by the States, Union Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a draft Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water to the States and Union Territories. So far ground water legislation has been